Widow not included in compassionate employment at VSTPP, CISF

3171. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only the daughter or the son of the deceased employees who worked in CISF Unit of Vindhyachal Super Thermal Power Project (VSTPP) are eligible for employment on compassionate grounds and not their widows; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) CISF is following the scheme of compassionate appointments issued by the Department of Personnel and Training *vide* their O.M.No. F14014/18/2000-Estt.(D) dated 22nd June, 2001 as amended upto date, under which appointment is granted on compassionate grounds to a dependent family member of a Government servent dying in harness. Under this scheme dependent family member means spouse or son or daughter (including adopted son of daughter) or brother or sister in the case of unmarried Government servant.

Loss of life and property due to rains in Kerala

3172. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a widespread loss of property and life due to the rains in the month of March of 2008 in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of action taken to assist the State from the above calamity;

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken for early assessment of the loss of life and property and for granting relief to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (e) As per the information received from the State Government, based on their preliminary assessment, 20 human lives lost, 1325 houses damaged and 1.39 lakh ha. of cropped area have been reported damage due to heavy rains/floods during March, 2008 in the State.

The State Government concerned is required to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. To ensure ready availability of funds with the States, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State, which is contributed by Government of India and the State Governments in the ratio of 75:25. Central contribution is released in two equal installments. Additional assistance is also provided to the States in the wake of calamities of severe nature from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), as per laid down procedure. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support.

The Government of India had released the entire Central share of CRF during the year 2007-08 amounting to Rs. 70.70 crore to Kerala.

In the meanwhile, in order to enable the State Government to meet the situation arising out of heavy rains during March, 2008, the Government of India has released in advance, the first instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 37.115 crore to Kerala on 10th April, 2008.

The State Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by heavy rains during March, 2008. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted, which visited the State during 5th-6th April 2008, for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. Further action will be taken on receipt of report of the Central Team, as per laid down procedure for release of Central assistance from NCCF.

Involving civil defence in tackling disasters

3173. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARATIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal to change the character of Civil Defence by giving its volunteers the responsibility of tackling disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted/asked help to face such challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI); (a) and (b) The Government have decided to involve the Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management in addition to their traditional roles. In this regard, Government have issued necessary instructions to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations that the services of Civil Defence Volunteers can be utilized by the State Government in tackling the disaster crises also.

(c) and (d) A Committee under Member, National Disaster Management Authority was set up to suggest measures to involve Civil Defence in disaster management.

The Report of the Committee was shared with the State Governments, who have agreed with the key recommendations on involving Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management.

Strengthening of CISF

3174. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has recently complained of shortage of manpower and latest equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the CISF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.